

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement today on the signing of the “Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act” into law. Congressman Pence co-authored the bill with Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) to highlight and promote freedom of the press:

**“With a profound sense of humility, I commend this Congress and President Obama for taking a firm stand in defense of those at the forefront of the worldwide struggle for freedom of the press. I especially want to express my sincere appreciation for the leadership of Congressman Adam Schiff, who invited me to partner in this endeavor to expand awareness of the ongoing repression of journalists around the world.”**

**“The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act is named in honor of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan in the months following the attacks of September 11, 2001. In every corner of the globe, journalists like Daniel Pearl are being silenced by intimidation, imprisonment or murder as they seek to bring to light information in the public interest.**

**“With the enactment of this legislation, we remember Daniel Pearl and all those correspondents, reporters and bloggers on the front lines of freedom. However, this law is not merely a tribute in his memory; rather, the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act will result in a concerted effort to highlight and promote freedom of the press by including such reports in the State Department’s Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.**

**“As a conservative who believes in the principle of limited government that served as a founding principle for this republic, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press.” The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act will encourage the free flow of information to the public by spotlighting abuses and serve as a vital check on governments that impede the development of a free and independent press.**

**“Defending the worldwide freedom of the press is a noble task worthy of the significant bipartisan efforts that were required to make this legislation the law of the land. Through the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, the United States of America will continue to hold the torch of liberty high and shine light into every dark corner of the globe.”**

**Background:** H.R. 3714, the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, was passed in the House of Representatives on December 16, 2009 and was agreed to in the Senate on April 29, 2010. The text of the legislation can be found [here](#) .

The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act expands the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices to include the status of freedom of the press in each country reviewed, especially where there are severe violations of freedom of the press, and whether such governments participate or condone such violations.

